United Nations S/2002/1209

Security Council

Distr.: General
29 October 2002
English
Original: Arabic

Letter dated 28 October 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 26 October 2002 from Mr. Naji Sabri, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the violations of the demilitarized zone that were committed by United States and British warplanes in the period from 14 September to 11 October 2002.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammed A. **Aldouri**
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 28 October 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Further to our letter of 22 September 2002 (S/2002/1071, annex), I should like to inform you that in the period from 14 September to 11 October 2002 United States and British warplanes flying from bases in Kuwait, from Kuwait's airspace and territorial waters and by way of the demilitarized zone monitored by the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) committed 884 hostile violations of our international boundaries. As shown in the table appended to this letter, the relevant Iraqi agencies have determined that the violations committed were as follows:

1. Armed aerial activity by the United States and the United Kingdom, violating our international boundaries from Kuwait, from Kuwait's airspace and territorial waters and by way of the demilitarized zone, comprised 884 armed sorties in the Dhi Qar, Muthanna, Basrah, Maysan, Qadisiyah, Najaf, Anbar, Karbala', Wasit and Babil governorates.

2. Our technical systems identified the aircraft violating Iraq's airspace on a daily basis as American F-14s, F-15s, F-16s and F-18s and British Tornadoes.

3. An AWACS aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and an E-2C aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace provided support to all of the United States and British aircraft that carried out armed and hostile sorties, violating Iraq's airspace by way of the demilitarized zone.

4. From 14 September to 11 October 2002, a total of 21 remotely piloted aircraft violated Iraq's airspace from United States and British bases in Kuwait, from Kuwait's airspace and territorial waters and by way of the demilitarized zone.

All of the violations in question were committed by way of the demilitarized zone in which UNIKOM is stationed. One of UNIKOM's primary responsibilities is to monitor such hostile military operations and to report them and endeavour to halt them immediately.

One of the primary tasks of UNIKOM is to record such violations accurately, determining the type and nationality of the aircraft. We therefore urge the United Nations Secretariat to provide UNIKOM with systems capable of detecting all of the violations so that it can notify the Security Council to take the necessary measures to halt these infringements forthwith. In another respect, even if UNIKOM did not have the systems needed to identify the type and nationality of these aircraft, the fact that they come from the direction of Kuwait confirms that they are those of the United States and the United Kingdom. Your report on UNIKOM for the period from 28 March to 4 September 2001 (S/2001/913) indicates as much, and paragraph 6 states that "[it should be noted] that the mission's inability to identify the States responsible for conducting such flights is in no way to be understood as condoning them". You also state in the report that the United States and the United Kingdom have acknowledged that they are continuing to enforce a no-flight zone in southern Iraq.

I accordingly urge you once more to instruct UNIKOM to perform its duties in full, to report these violations to the Security Council through you as soon as they occur and to specify the number and type of United States and British warplanes that

violate the demilitarized zone, contravene the Security Council resolutions establishing the zone and commit aggression against Iraq, given that this constitutes State terrorism and wanton aggression against Iraq and against its people, its sovereignty and its territorial integrity, as well as against United Nations peacekeeping operations. I also ask you to alert the Security Council to its responsibility to halt this aggression and ensure that its perpetrators are held fully accountable for it under international law and in accordance with the Security Council resolutions relating to Iraq.

(*Signed*) Naji **Sabri**
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Enclosure

Hostile aerial activity violating Iraq's international boundaries from Kuwait and by way of the demilitarized zone, 14 September-11 October 2002

Date	*From*	*Time*	*Type*	*Sorties*	*Altitude (metres)*	*Speed (km/h)*	*Areas overflown*
14 September-11 October	Kuwait	0715-1635	F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado, drone	884, and 21 drones	7,000-11,000	180-780	Basrah, Busayyah, Salman, Artawi, Lasaf, Ashbajah, Jalibah, Nasiriyah, Qal'at Salih, Amarah, Samawah, Najaf, Hayy, Diwaniyah, Hashimiyah, Kut, Nu'maniyah, Karbala', Nukhayb, Rutbah, Hillah